

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4837
ANSWERED ON:31.03.2017
Potassium Bromate in Bread
Parthipan Shri R.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken sufficient steps to control/ban use of potassium bromate in bread and refined flour as it leads to cancer as per study conducted by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has fixed the legal permissible limit of potassium bromate as chemical additive in foods;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government is aware that some studies showed that potassium bromate is a genotoxic carcinogen i.e. a chemical agent that can damage genetic information, causing mutations and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)

- (a) to (d): Potassium bromate has been excluded from the revised list of food additives permissible under the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011.
- (e): The Government is aware of the studies on the effect of potassium bromate. The Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) of the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) /World Health Organisation (WHO) concluded that use of potassium bromate in food was not appropriate. Potassium bromate was formally withdrawn from the Combined Compendium of Food Additives of FAO/WHO in 2011. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has concluded that no data exists regarding carcinogenicity of potassium bromate in humans. As per IARC, sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in experimental animals is, however, available.
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